

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER  
INDIANAPOLIS, INC.

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 1996*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, we always hunger for good news. The following should be a very fine meal in this respect.

COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER  
INDIANAPOLIS, INC.

To: Thomas L. Haskett, State Program Director

From: Nanci Morris, Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator, Community Action of Greater Indianapolis

Re: Impact, Meeting Community Needs

To address community needs, three priority areas have been targeted for Community Action's Foster Grandparent Program services: (1) special needs children in public schools, (2) children in homeless shelters, and (3) neglected and abused children in temporary homes and shelters.

## 1. SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dramatic increases have occurred in the number of mildly-to-severely disabled children enrolled in 19 elementary schools of the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) that have been designated for mainstreaming these children. Budget cutbacks have not allowed for all classrooms with special needs children to have teacher's aides. Severely disabled children are assigned 8 to a classroom with 1 teacher and 1 aide, and moderately-to-mildly disabled are assigned 10-14 per classroom with 1 teacher and sometimes 1 aide. Thus, 8 schools with classrooms having no aides or not enough aides to adequately address the children's special needs have been selected as priorities for this Foster Grandparent Program's placements by the IPS Programs for Young Children, Special Education Department.

## 2. CHILDREN IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

The increase in children throughout the nation living without a permanent address has made serving homeless children a priority for all Foster Grandparent Programs as presented at the recent Foster Grandparent Conference in Washington, D.C. A survey conducted last fall indicated that there were at least 824 homeless children under age 15 in Indianapolis. Thus, serving homeless children has been identified as a community need for Community Action's Foster Grandparent Program. Program volunteers are placed at 6 of Indianapolis' seven homeless shelters serving families with children.

## 3. NEGLECTED AND ABUSED CHILDREN IN TEMPORARY HOMES AND SHELTERS

Reported child abuse in Indianapolis has risen 150 percent during the past 2 years. A decrease in the number of neglected, abused, sexually abused, abandoned, fetal alcohol syndrome, emotionally disturbed/disabled, and "crack" children is not anticipated for the foreseeable future. Funding for homes and shelters to serve these children have not increased accordingly. Thus, 7 shelters for abused children have been selected for Community Action Foster Grandparent services.

## IMPACT ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

At the end of the 1994-95 school year, children assigned to Foster Grandparents were

tested and assigned to summer school for additional assistance as needed. To our knowledge, only three students assigned to Foster Grandparents were not promoted. The rest were able to keep up with their classmates after receiving the intervention of one-on-one Foster Grandparent instruction during the school year and summer school.

In addition to there being too few available, homeless shelters for families with children in Indianapolis are understaffed. There is a need for Foster Grandparent intervention during the parents' busiest hours (mornings) as they seek jobs and attend to other business. The one-on-one attention provided by the Grandparents eases the trauma and provides a sense of stability through loving and meaningful interaction for these children. Foster Grandparents help fit the children in suitable clothing in addition to helping provide for other physical needs. The parents enjoy guidance and support from the volunteers as well. Additionally, the shelter employees benefit in the traditional ways from the Grandparents' assistance. Consequently, the whole atmosphere of a shelter improves when a Foster Grandparent is around.

The staffs of homes and shelters for neglected and abused children alone can not adequately provide the level of attention needed there, particularly by the babies and small children. The maturity, stability, and love Foster Grandparents provide help the children respond in ways that would likely not be possible otherwise.

## IMPACT ON THE VOLUNTEER

Many Community Action Foster Grandparent volunteers have worked with special needs children in the IPS system for years and continue to maintain regular contact with many of their former students. Having witnessed the progress these children have made, the Grandparents benefit from the abounding satisfaction they feel from having been a part of each child's paths to success. The Grandparents are encouraged and allowed by IPS to be creative, and the teachers gladly seek advice and new ideas from the Grandparents. A good example of this creativity at work was when children living in a homeless shelter were often teased by their school classmates. "Grandma" started a grooming session whereby the special needs children met her before school. She would check them over for tidiness, give them a pep talk, and then give them a liberal spray of after shave lotion or perfume as a reminder that she was with them all day. This soon caught on, and other children who weren't homeless sought out Grandma for some reassurance and a sweet smell. Thus, the Grandparents are rewarded in the best possible way for being creative. Additionally, each of the Grandparents is taught how to operate school office equipment such as the duplicator, copiers, and calculators. The children often assist the Grandparent in copying and preparing papers for the next day's work, honing skills and providing satisfaction for both. One school even offers computer literacy classes to the Grandparents.

Many of the Grandparents live near the shelters they serve. They know first-hand about the situations faced by the families as they starting over. Being able to offer the single parent support, guidance, and encouragement to "hold your head up" in the face

of diversity and loneliness, inspires the Grandparent and develops a sense of independence and self-worth for both parties.

Of course ultimate personal satisfaction comes when the family is ready to leave the shelter and thanks the Grandparent wholeheartedly for the time, advice, and loving attention given to the children at their time of need.

Reward likewise abounds for the Foster Grandparents who serve neglected and abused children. The sense of self-worth derived from these programs is priceless for the Grandparents.

## IMPACT ON THIS AGENCY:

Foster Grandparents are highly valued by the school system, and thus a positive image of Community Action is presented to the agencies served as well as to the community at large. The Foster Grandparent Program enables Community Action to have significant contact with youth before they become teens and reject adult guidance. Grandparents are also able to refer children and their parents and alert agency personnel to the array of other Community Action programs available to meet diverse needs.

One example is Community Action's certified housing counseling program that includes a strong homeless assistance component. Foster Grandparents remind shelter workers to call upon this Community Action program for additional, on-going assistance to families as needed.

Community Action, the volunteer stations, and most importantly the people they serve benefit from cooperative relationships built through the Foster Grandparent Program.

## REMARKS HONORING HUGH MILLER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 1996*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the members of the Young Leadership Committee of the New York chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, as they hold their seventh annual masked ball honoring Hugh Miller. Known as an astute businessman in the world of finance, Mr. Miller is president and CEO the Delta Funding Corp., a company dealing primarily with the origination, purchase, and servicing of nonconforming residential mortgage loans. Indeed, the industry has looked to Mr. Miller for leadership, and he has served in that capacity as a representative of the National Home Equity Mortgage Association, National Mortgage Brokers Association, Executive Enterprises, American Community Bankers, Information Management Network, and Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

Yet despite the ongoing demands on his time and talents, Hugh Miller has vigorously and effectively undertaken a myriad of social responsibilities. Many diverse organizations including the National Kidney Foundation, Police Conference of New York and Nassau County, DARE, the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia Society of America, Hofstra University

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